

MAY 28, 1996

FACT SHEET

FINAL AIR TOXICS REGULATION FOR  
OFF-SITE WASTE AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS

TODAY'S ACTION...

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today issuing a final regulation to reduce air toxics emissions from facilities that receive waste and recoverable materials from off-site for treatment, storage, disposal, recovery, or recycling. Air toxics are those pollutants that are known or suspected of causing cancer or other serious health effects.
- ◆ Off-site waste and recovery operation facilities treat, store, recycle, or dispose of waste received from other industrial facilities or sites that produce waste as part of their manufacturing processes.
- ◆ Today's action is designed to address uncontrolled air toxics emissions that occur as a result of the transfer of waste between different industrial sources or facilities.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS?

- ◆ EPA's final rule will reduce emissions of air toxics, including benzene and methylene chloride, by about 43,000 tons annually, representing an 82 percent reduction from current levels. Benzene is a known human carcinogen and methylene chloride has been linked to increases in cancer incidence and other adverse health effects.
- ◆ EPA's final regulation will also reduce nationwide volatile organic compound emissions by about 51,000 tons per year, representing an 82 percent reduction from current levels. VOC emissions contribute significantly to the formation of ground-level ozone (smog), which can lead to acute and chronic human respiratory effects, as well as crop damage.

BACKGROUND

- ◆ Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 189 listed toxic air pollutants. On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of industries and activities that emit one or more of these air toxics, commonly called the source category list. For listed activities that are "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons annually or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that will require the application of stringent air pollution controls, known as maximum achievable control technology (MACT).
- ◆ The July 16, 1992 source category list comprised the industries and activities for which EPA intends to issue regulations to reduce the emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAP). The activities on this list were selected based on EPA's estimate of the potential harm to human health and the environment from hazardous air pollutant emissions generated at these facilities. The category for this final rule was originally titled "solid waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities," but was changed for the proposed rule to better describe the activities regulated by the standards.

#### **WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE FINAL RULE?**

- ◆ EPA estimates that there are approximately 750 off-site waste and recovery operation facilities nationwide. Of those, EPA believes that approximately 250 facilities may be subject to today's final rule. New off-site waste and recovery facilities built in the future will also be subject to EPA's final rule.
- ◆ The off-site waste and recovery operations source category includes hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities (TSDF), industrial waste water treatment facilities, recycled used oil management facilities, and other facilities that provide waste management support services, or recover and/or recycle spent materials.
- ◆ Landfills, publicly-owned treatment works, incinerator units, drum re-conditioning operations, and site remediation activities are not subject to this rule. EPA may develop air toxics standards for these activities under other source categories, but they are not included in today's final rule.

#### WHAT DOES EPA'S FINAL RULE REQUIRE?

- ◆ EPA's final regulation requires specific air emission controls for affected tanks, containers, surface impoundments, process vents, and equipment leaks.
- ◆ The final rule is based on a combination of equipment and operation standards and work practice standards. Specific requirements for monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting are outlined in the regulation.
- ◆ In order to ensure that affected facilities do not face overlapping requirements under the air toxics program, the final rule includes a provision allowing that any unit or emissions point that is operating air emission controls in compliance with another MACT standard (such as the final air toxics standard for synthetic organic chemical manufacturers or the "HON," or the final air toxics standard for petroleum refineries) is considered in compliance with today's final rule.

#### HOW MUCH WILL THE FINAL RULE COST?

- ◆ EPA estimates that the nationwide annual cost of the final rule will be \$18 million, and the nationwide capital cost will be \$42 million. These estimates include the costs of monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION...

- ◆ Anyone with a computer and a modem can download today's final rule from the Clean Air Act Amendments bulletin board of EPA's electronic Technology Transfer Network (TTN) (look under "Recently Signed Rules") by calling (919) 541-5742. For further information about how to access this bulletin board, contact the TTN help line at (919) 541-5384. Any questions regarding the applicability or rule determinations for this final rule should be directed to the appropriate regional contact, as follows:

Region I: Greg Rosco, Air Programs Compliance Branch Chief  
(617) 565-3221

Region II: Kenneth Eng, Air Compliance Branch Chief

(212) 637-4000  
Region III: Bernard Turlinski, Air Enforcement Branch Chief  
(215) 597-3989  
Region IV: Jewell A. Harper, Air Enforcement Branch  
(404) 347-2904  
Region V: George T. Czerniak, Jr., Air Enforcement Branch  
Chief  
(312) 353-2088  
Region VI: John R. Hepola, Air Enforcement Branch Chief  
(214) 665-7220  
Region VII: Royan Teeter, Air Planning and Development Branch  
(913) 551-7609  
Region VIII: Douglas M. Skie, Air and Technical Operations  
Branch Chief  
(303) 312-6432  
Region IX: Colleen W. McKaughan, Air Compliance Branch Chief  
(415) 744-1198  
Region X: Chris Hall, Air and Radiation Branch  
(206) 553-1949

For further information about the regulation, contact Michele  
Aston of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at  
(919) 541-2363.